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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/522,428	03/09/2000	Shunpei Yamazaki	SEL-165	3238

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EXAMINER	
JORGENSEN, LELAND R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2675	17

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/522,428	YAMAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leland R. Jorgensen	2675	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 January 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 74 and 76 - 153* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *75* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 74 and 76 - 153* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 29, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al., USPN 5,673,061, in view of Yamaguchi et al., USPN 6,222,515 B1.

Claim 1

Okada teaches a display device with an active matrix circuit comprising a plurality of pixel TFTs over a substrate. Okada, col. 1, lines 21 – 34; col. 9, lines 34 – 35, 57 – 58; and figure 1. A source driver [data driver 102] and a gate driver [scanning driver 103] drive the active matrix circuit. Okada, col. 9, lines 51 – 60; and figure 1.

Okada teaches that n bit information out of m bit digital video data inputted from an external is used for a voltage gray scale method, V_0, V_8, V_{16}, V_{24}, V_{32}, V_{40}, V_{48}, V_{56}, and V_{64}; (m-n) bit information is used for a time ratio gray scale method, $t_0 - t_7$. Okada, col. 11, lines 33 – 37; col. 12, lines 14 - 16; and figure 6. In the example given, m equals 12, n equals 8. Thus, both m and the n are integers equal to or larger than 2. It is inherent that m>n if (m-n) bit information is used for a time ratio gray scale method.

Although Okada teaches that the voltage gray scale method and the time ratio gray scale method are conducted simultaneously (Okada, col. 18, line 57 – col. 20, line 18, and figure 14), Okada does not specifically teach that a gray scale display level of one frame period corresponds

to a value obtained by averaging gray scale voltage levels imputed in each subframe period contained in the one frame period.

Yamaguchi teaches that a gray scale display level of one frame period corresponds to a value [mean effective value] obtained by averaging gray scale voltage levels imputed in each subframe period [first and second field] contained in the one frame period. Yamaguchi, col. 8, lines 11 – 27; and figures 7A – 7B.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the average gray scale level as taught by Yamaguchi with the display device as taught by Okada to produce a display having more gray scale levels than the gray scales realized by applied data voltages. Yamaguchi invites such combination by teaching.

> An object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for controlling the data voltage of a liquid crystal display unit that can realize a multiple gray-scale level display of high quality without increasing a circuit scale.

Yamaguchi, col. 2, lines 42 – 45. See also Yamaguchi, col. 1, lines 46 – 53. Yamaguchi adds,

> In this way, different voltage levels are applied to the first and second fields, respectively, and differences in mean effective voltages occurring in individual frames can realize more gray-scale levels than the gray-scale levels realized by applied data voltages. Namely, an intermediate gray-scale level between two gray-scale levels due to two applied voltages can be realized by the mean effective voltage only.

Yamaguchi, col. 8, lines 28 - 34.

Claim 5

Okada does not specifically teach an image gray scale of $(2^{m}-(2^{m-n}-1))$ patterns.

Okada teaches that patterns that between the specified pair of gray-scale voltages, $(2^{y}-1)$ intermediate voltages can be obtained. Therefore, the number of obtainable intermediate voltage

is $2^x (2^y - 1)$, where x plus y equals the number of bits, with x the number of upper bits and y the number of lower bits. Okada, col. 15, line 51 – col. 16, line 33; col. 24, line 50 – 65.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the formula of Okada to obtain the same results as obtained by the formula $(2^m-(2^{m-n}-1))$. But definition, x equals m – n; y equals n. Thus, for m = 6 and n = 3, according to the claim 5 the image gray scale has 57 patterns. According to Okada, the number of intermediate voltages is 56. However, the Okada formula excludes the zero or black value of 000000. If the black value is added to Okada, the image gray scale has 56 plus 1 for 57 patterns. For m = 5 and n = 2, according to claim 5 the image gray scale has 25 patterns. According to Okada, the number of intermediate voltages is 24 plus the black value of 1 for 25 patterns.

The claim 5 formula can be derived from the Okada formula as follows.

According to Okada, the number of obtainable intermediate voltages is $2^x (2^y - 1)$.

Thus, the number of image gray scale patterns with the black value is $2^x (2^y - 1) + 1$.

Since $x = m - n$ and $y = n$, then

$$2^x (2^y - 1) + 1 = 2^{m-n}(2^n - 1) + 1 = 2^{m-n+n} - 2^{m-n} + 1 = 2^m - 2^{m-n} + 1 = 2^m-(2^{m-n}-1)$$

Therefore, the claim 5 formula is identical to the Okada formula.

Claims 10 and 29

Okada does not specifically teach that m is 8 and n is 2.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the display device of Okada where m is 8 and n is 2. Okada invites such teaching,

> In the driving circuit in Example 1 described above, a pair of gray-scale voltages are specified from the plurality of gray-scale voltages, based on the upper three bits D_5, D_4, and D_3 of the 6-bit video data D_0, D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4, and

> D_5. A pair of analog switches corresponding to the specified pair of gray-scale voltages are driven at a duty ratio corresponding to the lower three bits D_2, D_1, and D_0. However, the invention is not limited to this manner.

Okada, col. 15, lines 43 – 50.

> In this example, the number of the oscillating signals t_0 - t_4 has been assumed to be equal to the number of lower bits (i.e., 5) used for specifying the oscillating signal T of the 8-bit video data. However, the invention is not limited to this specific case. For example, some of the oscillating signals t_0 - t_4 can be omitted, because the omitted oscillating signal(s) can be generated by repeatedly using the remaining oscillating signals. Also, the duty ratio of the oscillating signal is not limited to the above-described example.

Okada, col. 21, lines 33 – 41.

Claims 11 and 36

Okada teaches, in an example, that m is 12 and n is 4. Okada, col. 2, line 37 – col. 3, line 20; and figures 22 and 23.

3. Claims 2, 6, 26, 30, 33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. in view of Yamaguchi et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yasunishi, USPN 6,094,243.

Claim 2

Claim 2 describes a display device similar to claim 1 but adds that one frame image comprises 2^{m-n} subframes. Although Okada does not specifically state this formula, it uses the formula to determine the number of required gray-scale voltages. Okada, col. 2, lines 15 – 22.

Although Yamaguchi teaches subframes [first and second fields], neither Yamaguchi nor Okada specifically describe k subframes having 2^k levels.

Yasunishi teaches dividing a period T into k subframes with 2^k levels. Yasunishi, col 8, lines 44 – 67.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine k subframes with 2^k levels with the display device of Okada to produce a display device that has each frame image comprising 2^{m-n} subframes. Yasunishi invites such combination by teaching,

> There are provided subframes of a number greater than the bit length of data (i.e., the number of gray-scale bits) which represent the gray-scale levels of input image data. A period and a voltage value are set independently for each subframe, whereby a certain number of gray-scale levels can be effected with a lesser number of subframes as compared to the conventional frame modulation method. Moreover, by setting the period and the voltage value independently for each subframe, it is possible to avoid the reduction in the minimum pulse width which would occur in the conventional pulse width modulation method as the number of gray-scale levels increases. As a result, flickers in the displayed images and the display non-uniformity caused by the waveform distortion can be suppressed.
>
> Furthermore, image data for one frame is processed as binary display data which is set independently for each subframe. Therefore, it is possible to eliminate the complicated large-scale arithmetic circuit for performing square-sum calculation and square-root extraction, and a high-precision liquid crystal driver for outputting the analog voltage amplitude, which are required in the conventional amplitude modulation method.
>
> Furthermore, by setting a voltage amplitude independently for each subframe, it is possible to construct a display device most suitable for the response performance of the liquid crystal panel and the voltage endurance of the liquid crystal driver.
>
> Thus, the invention described herein makes possible the advantages of: (1) providing a liquid crystal display device capable of conducting a gray-scale display while suppressing flickers in the displayed images which would occur in the frame modulation method and suppressing the display non-uniformity which would occur in the pulse width modulation method, without increasing the circuit scale so significantly as in the amplitude modulation method; and (2) providing a method for driving such a liquid crystal display device.

Yasunishi, col. 6, line 52 – col. 7, line 21.

Claim 6

Claim 6 describes a display device similar to claim 2 but adds that an image is displayed by an image gray scale of $(2^{m}-(2^{m-n}-1))$ patterns. As discussed in the response to claim 5 above, the Okada formula is the same as the $(2^{m}-(2^{m-n}-1))$ pattern.

Claims 26 and 30

Okada does not specifically teach that m is 8 and n is 2. For the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 10 and 29 above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the display device of Okada where m is 8 and n is 2.

Claims 33 and 37

Okada teaches, in an example, that m is 12 and n is 4. Okada, col. 2, line 37 – col. 3, line 20; and figures 22 and 23.

4. Claims 3, 4, 8, 27, 28, 32, 34, 35, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., and Yasunishi, as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al., USPN 6,335,716 B1.

Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 describes a display device similar to claim 2 but adds that the active matrix circuit, the drivers, and the converter circuit are formed over a substrate.

Okada specifically teaches that active matrix circuits and drivers are formed over a substrate. Although it is obvious, perhaps inherent, that the converter circuit of Okada would be formed over the same substrate, Okada does not specifically state such.

Yamazaki et al. teaches that all circuits for a display device formed over the same substrate. Yamazaki, col. 3, lines 38 – 50.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form all circuits on the same substrate as taught by Yamazaki including all the circuits taught by Okada et al., Yamaguchi, and Yasunishi because it is easier and cheaper to manufacture and the display would require less space.

Claim 8

Claim 8 describes a display device similar to claim 2 but adds that an image is displayed by an image gray scale of $(2^{m}-(2^{m-n}-1))$ patterns. As discussed in the response to claim 5 above, the Okada formula is the same as the $(2^{m}-(2^{m-n}-1))$ pattern.

Claims 27, 28 and 32

Okada does not specifically teach that m is 8 and n is 2. For the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 10 and 29 above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the display device of Okada where m is 8 and n is 2.

Claims 34, 35, and 39

Okada teaches, in an example, that m is 12 and n is 4. Okada, col. 2, line 37 – col. 3, line 20; and figures 22 and 23.

5. Claims 7, 31, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. in view of Yamaguchi et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

Claim 7

Claim 7 describes a display device similar to claim 2 but adds that all circuits are formed on the same substrate and that an image is displayed by an image gray scale of $(2^m-(2^{m-n}-1))$ patterns. As discussed in the response to claim 5 above, the Okada formula is the same as the $(2^m-(2^{m-n}-1))$ pattern.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form all circuits on the same substrate as taught by Yamazaki including all the circuits taught by Okada et al. and Yamaguchi because it is easier and cheaper to manufacture and the display would require less space.

Claim 31

Okada does not specifically teach that m is 8 and n is 2. For the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 10 and 29 above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the display device of Okada where m is 8 and n is 2.

Claims 38

Okada teaches, in an example, that m is 12 and n is 4. Okada, col. 2, line 37 – col. 3, line 20; and figures 22 and 23.

6. Claims 12 – 17, 40 – 74, 76 - 82, and 89 - 152 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al., or Holmes et al., USPN 3,792,919, or Kimura, USPN 5,610,741, or Munyan, USPN 5,761,485, or Stambolic et al., USPN 5,893,798, or Kleinschmidt et al., USPN 6,085,112, or Sato, USPN 6,167,208, or Yun et al., USPN 5,835,139, in view of Okada et al. and Yamaguchi et al. as applied to claim 1 or 5 above, or of Okada et al.,

Yamaguchi et al., and Yasunishi as applied to claim 2 or 6 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., Yasunishi, and Yamazaki as applied to claim 3, 4 or claim 8 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi, and Yamazaki as applied to claim 7 above.

Claims 12 – 17, 40 – 74, 76 - 82, and 89 - 152

As to claims 12, 40 - 46, Yamazaki teaches a rear projector comprising three display devices Yamazaki, col. 16, lines 1 – 25; and figure 11. As to claims 13, 47 – 53, Yamazaki teaches a front projector comprising three display devices. Yamazaki, col. 15, lines 32 – 56; and figure 10. As to claims 14, 54 - 60, Holmes teaches a single plate type rear projector. Holmes, col. 8, lines 48 – 58. As to claims 15, 61 - 67, Yamazaki teaches a goggle type display comprising two display devices. Yamazaki, col. 26, lines 38 – 40; and figure 22D. As to claims 16, 68 - 74, Kimura teaches a display for portable information terminal. Kimura, col. 1, lines 11 – 16. As to claims 17, 76 - 82, Yun et al., teaches a notebook type personal computer. Yun, col. 1, lines 49 – 52; and figure 9. As to claims 89 - 96, Yamazaki teaches a mobile telephone. Yamazaki, col. 26, lines 26 – 29. As to claims 97 - 104, Yamazaki teaches a video camera. Yamazaki, col. 26, lines 29 – 33; and figure 22B. As to claims 105 - 112, Yamazaki teaches a mobile computer. Yamazaki, col. 26, lines 34 – 37; and figure 22C. As to claims 113 - 120, Munyan teaches a portable electric book. Munyan, col. 1, lines 56 – 57. As to claims 121 - 128, Kimura teaches a personal computer. Kimura, col. 1, lines 11 – 16. As to claims 129 - 136, Stambolic et al. teaches a electronic game device. Stambolic, col. 1, lines 9 – 10. As to claims 137 - 144, Kleinschmidt teaches an image reproduction device. Kleinschmidt, col. 5, lines 58 – 61. As to claims 145 - 152, Sato teaches a digital camera. Sato, col. 1, lines 7 – 10.

None of these patents specifically teach the display device of Okada.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the display device of Okada for these generally small appliances. Okada teaches,

> Accordingly, it is unnecessary to provide an additional driving circuit depending on the cases where the driving circuit directly outputs one of the plurality of gray-scale voltages and where the driving circuit alternately outputs the specified pair of gray-scale voltages. As a result, it is possible to simplify the configuration of the driving circuit, and the size of the driving circuit can be minimized.
>
> Thus, the invention described herein makes possible the advantage of providing a driving circuit for a display apparatus, which has a simplified and small construction, and which can display an image with multiple gray scales in accordance with multi-bit video data.

Okada, col. 7, line 59 – col. 8, line 3.

7. Claims 9 and 19 - 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. and Yamaguchi et al. as applied to claim 1 or 5 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., and Yasunishi as applied to claim 2 or 6 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., Yasunishi, and Yamazaki as applied to claim 3, 4 or claim 8 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., and Yamazaki as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Wu et al., USPN 6,245,256 B1.

Claims 9 and 19 - 25

Okada does not teach thresholdless antiferroelectric mixed liquid crystal.

Wu teaches thresholdless antiferroelectric mixed liquid crystal indicating electro-optical characteristic of V-shape. Wu, col. 3, lines 2 –25; and figure 12.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the antiferroelectric mixed liquid crystal of Wu with the display device of Okada. Wu teaches,

> According to Inui's report, when the mixing ratio of I:II:III=40:40:20, no E_{th} value is found, and its field-induced antiferroelectric to ferroelectric switching shows a V-shaped switching (see FIG. 12). Inui give the name of "Thresholdless antiferroelectric liquid crystals; TLAFLCs" to this antiferroelectric liquid crystal mixture. These thresholdless antiferroelectric liquid crystals have the following properties:
>
> (1) Great tilt angle (>35.degree.);
>
> (2) Low driving voltage (<2V/μm^{-1});
>
> (3) Ideal gray scale;
>
> (4) Fast antiferroelectric to ferroelectric switching time (<50.mu.s);
>
> (5) High contrast value (>100); and
>
> (6) Broad viewing angle (>60.degree.).
>
> The aforesaid properties eliminate the gray scale problem occurred during the fabrication of a passive matrix addressing (PM) surface stable ferroelectric liquid crystal display, and also improve the drawback of being difficult to obtain a high contrast ratio commonly existed in regular active matrix (AM) or thin film transistor (TFT) addressing type deformed-helix ferroelectric liquid crystal displays and passive matrix addressing type antiferroelectric liquid crystal displays.

Wu, col. 3, lines 2 –25.

8. Claims 18, 83 – 88, and 153 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Okada et al. and Yamaguchi et al. as applied to claim 1 or 5 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., and Yasunishi as applied to claim 2 or 6 above, or of Okada et al., Yamaguchi et al., Yasunishi, and Yamazaki as applied to claim 3, 4 or claim 8 above, or of Okada et al.,

Yamaguchi et al., and Yamazaki as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Bhargava, USPN 5,455,489.

Claims 18, 83 – 88, and 153

Okada does not teach an EL display.

Bhargava teaches an EL display. Bhargava, col. 9, lines 46 – 64.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the EL display of Bhargava with the display device of Okada. Bhargava teaches,

> Today, EL displays offer unique properties such as flat-slim and high contrast but suffer from (1) poor efficiency, (2) limited color availability and control, (3) lack of gray scale, and (4) expensive drives for high voltage operation.
>
> As will be clear from the foregoing exposition, an EL display whose phosphor layer comprises a DNC particle layer will exhibit higher efficiency, improved gray scale, and due again to its tiny sized particles will operate at low voltages.

Bhargava, col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 2. This is especially true in light of Okada's invitation.

> Thus, the invention described herein makes possible the advantage of providing a driving circuit for a display apparatus, which has a simplified and small construction, and which can display an image with multiple gray scales in accordance with multi-bit video data.

Okada, col. 7, line 66 – col. 8, line 3.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 74 and 76 – 153 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leland Jorgensen whose telephone number is 703-305-2650. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven J. Saras can be reached on 703-305-9720.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office, telephone number (703) 306-0377.

lrj

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